

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
an elongated housing having opposed sides;
an ignition button and a safety button extending through and supported by the housing;
the ignition and safety buttons being arranged on said opposed respective sides;
a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button;
an actuating member that is separately pivotally supported from yet operatively responsive to the ignition button for controlling an ignition source;
wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the fuel source is opened and the ignition source is activated to light the lighter, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the fuel source is closed, the ignition source is de-activated, and the safety button automatically returns to a locked or off position wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
2. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 1 wherein the housing has upper and lower ends and the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user.
3. Canceled

4. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 2 wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position.
5. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 4 wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position.
6. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 5 wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates the ignition source.
7. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 6 wherein the arms are disposed at an acute angle to each other.
8. Canceled
9. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 1 wherein the actuating member is supported at a pivot point that is above the ignition button.
10. (Previously Presented) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
an elongated housing having opposed sides;
an ignition button and a safety button extending through and supported by the housing;
the ignition and safety buttons being arranged on said opposed respective sides;
a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button;
an actuating member that is separately pivotally supported from yet operatively responsive to the ignition button for controlling an ignition source;

wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the fuel source is opened and the ignition source is activated to light the lighter, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the fuel source is closed, the ignition source is de-activated, and the safety button automatically returns to a locked or off position wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing

said the actuating member has two arms, one arm for contacting the ignition source and the other arm for engaging between the buttons to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position.

11. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 10 wherein the ignition source is disposed over said one arm.

12. (Previously Presented) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
a longitudinal housing having upper and lower ends and one and another opposed side walls;
an ignition button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said one side wall of said housing;

a safety button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said another side wall of said housing;

a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button to normally bias the safety button to a locked position;

an actuating member operatively connected to the ignition button and to an ignition source;
said actuating member being independently pivotally supported adjacent said ignition and safety buttons;

said actuating member having an arm that is urged by said ignition button to an igniting position when said safety button is at its released position and blocks said ignition button when said safety button is in its locked position;

wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the ignition button is free to move to its ignition position, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the safety button automatically returns to its locked position

wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user.
14. Canceled
15. (Currently Amended) The lighter of claim ~~14~~ 12 wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position.
16. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 15 wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position.

17. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 16 wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates an ignition source.
18. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 17 wherein the arms are disposed at an acute angle to each other.
19. Canceled
20. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the actuating member is supported at a pivot point that is above the ignition button.
21. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 20 the actuating member has two arms, one arm for contacting the ignition source and the other arm for engaging between the buttons.
22. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 21 wherein the ignition source is disposed over said one arm.
23. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 12 wherein the safety button is normally biased to an upper position and is manually operated to a lower position.
24. (Previously Presented) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
a longitudinal housing having upper and lower ends and one and another opposed side walls;
an ignition button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said one side wall of said housing;
a safety button extending through and supported by said housing disposed between said upper and lower ends and arranged on said another side wall of said housing;

a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button to normally bias the safety button to a locked position;

an actuating member operatively connected to the ignition button and to an ignition source;

said actuating member being independently pivotally supported adjacent said ignition and safety buttons;

said actuating member having an arm that is urged by said ignition button to an igniting position when said safety button is at its released position and blocks said ignition button when said safety button is in its locked position;

wherein, when a force is exerted on both the ignition button and the safety button, the ignition button is free to move to its ignition position, and when the force on the ignition and safety buttons is released, the safety button automatically returns to its locked position

wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing;

wherein the safety button is located on one side of the housing at a position that is closer to the upper end of the housing than the location of the ignition button so as to more naturally match the buttons to the hand position of the user; wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing; wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the biasing member comprises a coil spring supported at the bottom of the safety button shaft to normally urge the safety button to an upper position; wherein said actuating member has an arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position; wherein the actuating member also has a second arm that actuates an ignition source; wherein the ignition source is disposed over said second arm; wherein the safety button is normally biased to an upper position and is manually operated to a lower position; wherein a separating wall is disposed between the actuating member shaft and the ignition button; and wherein the ignition button has a rounded upper end that engages with said one arm.

25. (Currently Amended) A lighter with an automatic locking device, the lighter comprising:
an elongated housing having opposed sides;
an ignition button and a safety button, both supported by the housing;
the ignition and safety buttons being arranged on said opposed respective sides;
a biasing member operatively connected to the safety button;
an actuating member that is operatively responsive to the ignition button for controlling an ignition source;
a pivot for pivotally supporting said actuating member;
wherein, when both the ignition button and the safety button are operated, the actuating member is in a first position enabling the operation of the ignition button to activate the ignition source, and when ~~only the ignition button is moved toward operation the actuating member pivots to a second position between the ignition button and safety button so as to inhibit activation of the ignition source~~ the ignition button and the safety button are both released the actuating member pivots to a second position to re-engage the safety button, thereby placing the lighter in the locked or off position.
26. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 25 wherein the safety button is supported to slide in the longitudinal direction of the housing while the ignition button is supported to pivot into the housing.
27. (Previously Presented) The lighter of claim 25 wherein the safety button has a shaft that slides in the longitudinal direction and the actuating member has one arm that is disposed between the safety button shaft and the ignition button to prevent actuation of the ignition button when the safety button is in its locked position, and another arm for contacting the ignition source.